Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 63211 NOGAL Allotment
[03/29/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63211 NOGAL. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
63211-IDSU-A146	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Lamay Place Ranch, allotment #63071. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic function and 13 biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected on 1 trend plot location within this allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. These collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years.

This allotment contains 50 acres of public land. This is a “C” (Custodial) category allotment. The study is located on a Hills CP-3 ecological site. The majority of the indicators were rated as “None to Slight” or “Slight to Moderate” degree of departure from the ecological site description. There are no riparian areas on the public land in this allotment. The indicator for Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff, Functional/Structural Groups and Invasive Plants were rated as “Moderate” due to the amount of or encroaching juniper.

Recommendations: With the majority of the indicators falling in the “None to Slight” or “Slight to Moderate category, this allotment is rated as “Meeting” the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. This allotment contains 50 acres of public land, surrounded by private land. If the area were to be mapped for juniper treatment and that the treatment across the ranch was deemed to be feasible, due to the intermingled land status, the team recommends that coordination be done with other entities, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Soil and Water Conservation District, and the New Mexico State Land Office to complete the treatment across private, state leased

lands and public lands. If only the 50 acres of public land were treated, the treatment would not be economically feasible.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63211-IDSU-A146			
Legal Land Desc	NENW 32 0080S 0130E Meridian 23	Acreage	50
Ecosite	070CY106NM HILLS CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003040 WHITE OAKS		
Observers	VINSON & ARNOLD	Observation Date	03/29/2010
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	037	Soil Taxon Name	MOKIAK
Texture Class	NM632 GR-L	Soil Phase	MOKIAK-STROUPE-ROC
Texture Modifier	NM632 STONY LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
Disturbances and Animal Use:	Little or no animal use		

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	

Comments:						
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff			X		
Comments:	Pinon-juniper encroachment					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	Pinon- juniper encroachment					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Juniper encroachment					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X

Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	5	5
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	7	3
B	Biotic	0	0	2	4	5

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	1	10
Biotic		0	2	9

Site Notes: The allotment looks good except for the juniper encroachment. However due to the small amount of public land surrounded by private land, treatment would not be practical if applied only to the public land.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63211 NOGAL

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for the implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunctions with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on the assessments, it is my determination that the public land within the Nogal allotment 63211, meets the (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Standard.

/s/ J. Howard Parman	04/05/2010
Acting Assistant Field Manager	Date